Government of Saskatchewan

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All stated cattle prices are based on the weekly Canfax Market Outlook and Summary.
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Cattle Market Update

For the Week Ending October 24, 2014

All prices are quoted in Canadian dollars per hundredweight ($/cwt) unless otherwise stated.

Saskatchewan Feeder Steer and Feeder Heifer Prices ($/cwt)

Feeder Steers		300-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-800	800-900	900+ lb.
Oct. 24/2014	Average	**$360.86**	**$315.89**	**$285.42**	**$264.31**	**$249.67**	**$236.35**	**$220.50**
Oct. 24/2014	Range	340-383	301-340	271-302	255-277	240-257	232-245	216-224
Week/Week	Change	-$8.02	-$4.11	-$5.48	-$4.29	**$2.47**	-$0.25	-$2.83
Oct. 17/2014	Average	**$368.88**	**$320.00**	**$290.90**	**$268.60**	**$247.20**	**$236.60**	**$223.33**
Feeder Heifers		**300-400**	**400-500**	**500-600**	**600-700**	**700-800**	**800+ lb.**	
Oct. 24/2014	Average	**$319.92**	**$283.50**	**$255.95**	**$239.92**	**$226.80**	**$217.67**	
Oct. 24/2014	Range	300-342	270-305	247-274	233-248	222-235	207-228	
Week/Week	Change	-$4.21	-$13.00	-$7.55	-$6.48	-$8.08	-$1.21	
Oct. 17/2014	Average	**$324.13**	**$296.50**	**$263.50**	**$246.40**	**$234.88**	**$218.88**	

Source: CanFax

Note: Prices are determined from Saskatchewan auction marts' reports of sale results from Thursday of the previous week to Thursday of the current week. N.A. means not available due to lack of sufficicent data.

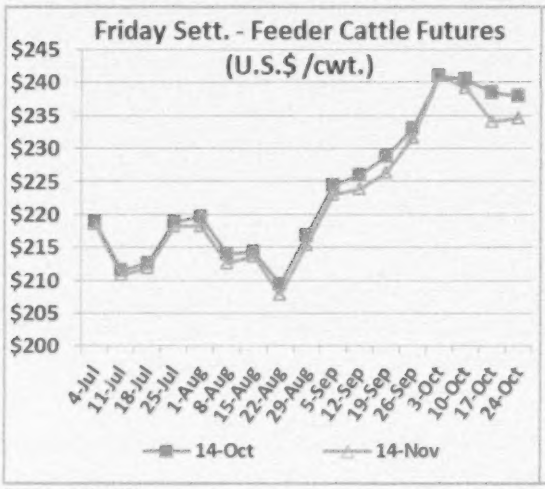
Canfax reported that a total of 46,656 head of cattle were sold in Saskatchewan this week, up significantly from 15,705 head marketed the previous week. Saskatchewan feeder cattle prices were primarily lower over the week with large volumes of feeder cattle sold in Saskatchewan. Feeder cattle futures prices continued to be volatile over the week and ended the week mixed.

Saskatchewan feeder steer prices were lower in almost all weight categories over the week. Saskatchewan feeder steer prices ranged from $8.02 per cwt lower to $2.47 per cwt higher. The only gain over the week was in the 700-800 lb. weight category which increased $2.47 per cwt. The remaining weight categories all had losses with the 300-400 lb. category having the largest loss of $8.02 per cwt.

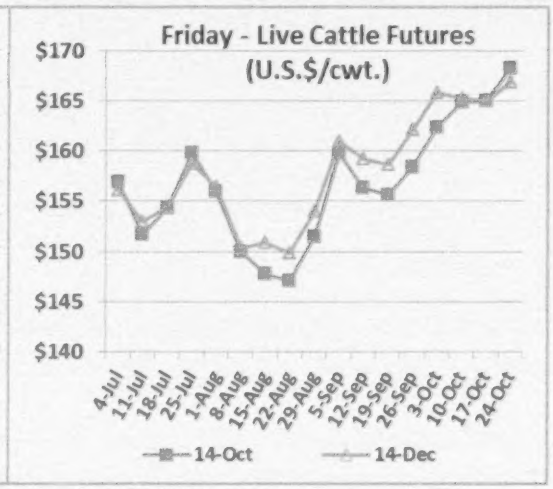
Feeder heifer prices were lower in all weight categories over the week declining between $1.21 per cwt and $13.00 per cwt. The 400-500 lb. weight category had the largest loss over the week declining $13.00 per cwt.

The Saskatchewan 750 lb. feeder steer basis compared to the October 23, 2014 U.S. feeder cattle index at US$239.55 per cwt was calculated at -$18.94 per cwt (US$239.55/0.8918 -$249.67), a basis narrowing of $8.23 per cwt from -$27.18 per cwt on October 16, 2014.

Feeder cattle futures prices were mixed over the week with three down days and two up days. Daily price swings were as high as US$3.175 per cwt for the October contract and US$4.150 per cwt for December contract. Futures prices ended the week mixed, week-over-week. The October contract declined US$0.550 per cwt to settle Friday at US$237.900 per cwt, while the November contract increased US$0.500 per cwt to settle Friday at US$234.650 per cwt.



Source: CME



Source: CME

Live cattle futures prices were also mixed over the week with large daily price swings. Daily price swings over the week were up to US$3.100 per cwt for the October contract and US$3.475 per cwt for December contract. Live cattle futures prices ended the week higher, week-over-week. The October live cattle futures contract increased US$3.200 per cwt to settle Friday at US$168.250, while the December contract increased US$1.850 per cwt to settle Friday at US$166.900 per cwt.

Iowa cash corn prices moved higher again over the week increasing 5 cents per bushel to end Friday at US$3.12 per bushel. The December and March corn futures contracts were also higher with the December contract increasing 5 cents to settle Friday at US$3.53 per bushel, while the March 2015 corn futures contract increased over 5 cents to settle Friday at $3.66¾ per bushel.

Fed and Non-fed Cattle

	October 24	October 17	Change over Week
Cows (Alberta)			
D1,2 Live	125.50	125.70	-0.20
D3 Live	110.50	111.67	-1.17
Rail	237-242	237-242	0.00

Source: Canfax.

Prices for liveweight, non-fed cattle in Alberta were lower last week with D1,2 slaughter cows decreasing $0.20 per cwt to average $125.50 per cwt, while the price of D3 slaughter cows decreased $1.17 per cwt to average $110.50 per cwt.

Fed cattle prices in Western Canada moved higher. The price of fed steers in Alberta was reported to average $169.66 per cwt, up from $165.48 per cwt from two weeks ago (Oct. 10), and a new all-time high record price.

On October 24, 2014, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the monthly *Cattle on Feed Report* for October 1, 2014.

October 1, 2013 and 2014, Cattle on Feed (in U.S. feedlots with 1,000+ capacity)

	2013	2014	Per cent of previous year
On feed September 1	9,876,000	9,799,000	99.2
Placed during September	1,988,000	2,007,000	101.0
Marketed during September	1,692,000	1,683,000	99.5
Other disappearance during September	62,000	65,000	104.8
On feed October 1	10,110,000	10,058,000	99.5

Source: USDA

The USDA Cattle on Feed (COF) report indicated that the number of cattle placed on feed in September 2014 was 2.007 million head, up 1.0 per cent from 1.988 million head in September 2013, up 16.7 per cent from 1.720 million head in August 2014. The number of fed cattle marketed in September 2014 was 1.683 million head, down 0.5 per cent from 1.692 million head in September 2013, and down 0.5 per cent from 1.692 million head marketed in August 2014. The September cattle placements were lower than the average trade estimates (101.4) and the cattle marketed in September were above the average trade estimates (99.2). The cattle on feed for October 1, 2014 were estimated at 10.058 million head, 0.5 per cent below the October 2013 inventory numbers, but 2.6 per cent above the September 2014 numbers; but slightly below the average trade estimates (99.7). The cattle on feed report was overall close to the average trade estimates and likely viewed as NEUTRAL with slightly lower September placements and slightly lower October 1 cattle on feed numbers; than the average trade estimates.

The live (FOB feedlot) weighted average 5-area (Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Iowa/Minnesota) weekly fed steer price in the U.S. was reported at US$168.79 per cwt, up US$5.00 from US$163.76 per cwt the previous week, and up 27.6 per cent from US$132.23 per cwt a year ago. The dressed (delivered basis) price for U.S. steers delivered to plants in the 5-area was reported at US$264.79 per cwt, up US$7.04 per cwt from US$257.75 per cwt the previous week, and up 27.4 per cent from US$207.77 per cwt a year ago.

Average beef cutout values (Choice 600-900 lb.) for the week ending October 25 averaged US$249.50 per cwt, up slightly from US$249.26 per cwt from the previous week, and up 24.7 per cent from US$200.09 per cwt a year ago.

USDA released the latest U.S. cold storage numbers on October 22. The U.S. beef stocks in cold storage totaled 373.3 million lb. on September 30, 2014, up 7.7 per cent from 346.6 million lb. on August 31, 2014, but down 16.1 per cent from 445.2 million lb. on September 30, 2013.

U.S. beef production for the week totaled 474.2 million lb., up 2.3 per cent from 463.6 million lb. a week ago, but down 4.5 per cent from 496.8 million lb. the same week a year ago. Cattle slaughter numbers were 576,000 head, up 1.9 per cent from 565,000 head the previous week, but down 7.0 per cent from 619,000 head a year ago.

Friday Price Information

Product		This Week (October 24)	Week of: (October 17)
Canadian Dollar (closing rate US$)		.8918	.8868
U.S. Cash Cattle			
Thurs. Feeder Cattle (FC) Index (US$ per cwt)		239.55	243.32
Seven-day Weighted Average FC Index Wt. (lb.)		736	738
Live Fed 5-area Steer Price (US$ per cwt)		168.79	163.76
Feed Grains			
Barley	Lethbridge ($/tonne)	183.00	178.00
	($ per bu.)	3.98	3.88
Corn	Iowa State Average (CDN$/tonne)*	137.73	136.29
	(US$ per bu.)	3.12	3.07
	Omaha, NE (CDN$/tonne)*	142.59	137.18
	(US$ per bu.)	3.23	3.09
Futures			
	Dec. Corn (US$ per bu.)	3.53	3.48
	March Corn (US$ per bu.)	3.66¾	3.61¼
	October Live Cattle (US$ per cwt)	168.250	165.050
	December Live Cattle (US$ per cwt)	166.900	165.050
	Oct. Feeder Cattle (US$ per cwt)	237.900	238.450
	November Feeder Cattle (US$ per cwt)	234.650	234.150

Sources: Bank of Canada, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship,
Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), ICE Futures Canada and USDA Livestock & Grain Market News
* conversion to CDN$ is based on Friday's CDN$ closing rate

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